

January 20, 1993

Office of the Secretary FCC  
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To Whom It May Concern:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: MM Docket # 92-254 - the "Dan Becker" commercials

I was one of probably many viewers who stayed up late in order to watch Daniel Becker's political commercial. I found it to be no more indecent than much of what is shown on the 6 o'clock evening news or what is shown 24 hours a day on the medical channel on cable television. In my opinion, a political candidate pays good money to advertise during whatever time slots are available to all candidates in a political race. As far as I know, no other candidate's commercial was censored in the way Daniel Becker's was. Not only that, but regular advertisers are in no way censored in what they are allowed to show in their commercials based on what time of day the commercial is due to air. For instance, beer commercials are shown during Sunday afternoon football games, teaching our children that you're "cool" if you drink beer and watch football and look like the people in the commercials.

Many times during the 6 o'clock evening news, we have been shown bloody shoot-outs, medical procedures in progress, dead bodies, and blood covered side walks, all in the name of "the news" and the "latest breaking story." May I point out that this is supper time for much of the country, and we have to watch this while we're trying to eat. You may say, "Well, you can change the channel if you don't want to watch it." And you would be correct. But so can the people who don't want to watch Daniel Becker's commercial. The FCC has given the networks the right to air this type of show at 6:00 p.m., when children have great access to the television, and much of the content is worse than Daniel Becker's commercial.

And what about "Prime Time" T.V.? In the hours between 8:00 - 11:00 p.m. you can see every form of violence from shooting to rape, hear almost every vulgar term in the English language, and are deluged with indecencies that far outweigh what I witnessed in Daniel Becker's commercial. If the major networks want to censor Daniel Becker's commercial or be given "license to channel" things they don't want to show, why aren't they willing to "clean their own house" first? If the networks had to take off all the shows that are indecent by the same criteria that they used on Daniel Becker's commercial, there would be an outcry like you've never heard. You can show me real footage of shoot-outs, killing, drug busts, etc. on "Cops", and real footage of emergencies, blood and gore included, on "Code 3" between 8:00-9:30 p.m. on Saturday night, but according to the network, you can't show me a "simple operation" during a political commercial during "prime time." After all, many claim that's all an abortion is, right? Just a "simple operation with no major consequences," right? Well, if that is true, then why are the networks so afraid to show this commercial when they'll show you everything else?

As far as "channeling material that may be harmful to children," the networks are not doing that now. Most children learn about drugs, sex, alcohol, and violence just by turning on the television and watching the shows that are supposed to be geared just for them, not to mention what they do watch during "prime time." And I don't mean learning in a positive way. They learn that it is alright to kill your buddy if he cheats you in a dope deal or goes out with your girlfriend, or if it's not o.k. to kill him, you at least have the right to beat him up. They learn that having sex is o.k. as long as you "love each other", no matter how young you are. So the networks are NOT taking the responsibility they want you to think they are right now. ~~now~~ *rec'd* *245*

If the networks truly believe that Daniel Becker's commercial is indecent,

then they need to look again at their own current programming. I found Daniel Becker's commercial to be very informative regarding that particular medical procedure. It will definitely open your eyes - and, after all, that's what the 6 o'clock news is "supposed" to do, right?

Sincerely,

*Mary Sue Ray*

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